

2005 Report of Accomplishments

Whitman Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- 17 Acres of riparian buffers were installed improving water quality by reducing streambank and soil erosion to Penawawa Stream, a salmon bearing stream.
- 865 Acres of contour buffers were installed preventing an estimated 5,190 tons of soil erosion.
- Wildlife habitat was improved by working with 3 landowners to plant 9,100 stems.
- Technical and financial assistance was provided to 14 landowners resulting in 530 acres of direct seed/no-till being implemented; 8 guzzlers installed; 4 acres of wildlife plantings being completed; 1 roof run-off systems being installed, and 2 spring developments being installed to improve water quality by reducing run-off to the Palouse River and Snake River drainages.



Direct Seed System

Mission of the Whitman Conservation District

- The Mission of the Whitman Conservation District is to promote the wise, ethical, and sustainable use of Natural Resources, by leadership in the education and assistance of all Stakeholders. The Whitman Conservation District will promote the implementation of the best available conservation measures and provide a forum for local input on Natural Resource issues.

Water Quality Implementation

- Technical assistance provided to 17 livestock operators for review of the Department of Ecology's water concerns with the livestock operations.
- Technical and financial assistance provided through the District Cost-Share Program to 14 landowners resulting in wildlife cisterns, spring developments, roof runoff management systems, wildlife habitat plantings, and direct seed, no-till and mulch-till seeding systems to improve water quality by reducing run-off and/or access to the Palouse River and Snake River drainages.
- Provided outreach information to 17 landowner/operators regarding qualification in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- Provided technical assistance to 1 landowner who's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program with 2 pending contracts.
- Participated in the Technical Service Provider Program under contract with NRCS resulting in 28 Status Reviews being completed and 29 Practice Certification being done.
- 1,665 Customers were assisted by phone or in-person.
- Participation in WRIA 34 and WRIA 35 Planning Sessions.
- Participation in the Palouse Sub-Basin Planning with Palouse Rock Lake CD, and participation in the Snake Sub-Basin Planning with Pomeroy CD.

Basic Funding

- Provides supplemental funding for district staff (1.5 FTE), office administration, association dues – no employees, no office, no implementation.
- Provides funding for district staff time for mandatory district requirements: District Operations Review, Management Standards Criteria, Annual Budget submission, Annual Planning reporting, year-end financial reporting, district elections/appointments, state and local audits, and monthly board meetings.
- Provides funding for staff training.
- Provides funding for staff time to seek additional grant funding and submission.

Professional Engineering

- Provided on-site technical assistance to 17 livestock owners, assisting to meet the Department of Ecology's water quality vague guidelines.
- Design, management, and construction supervision for installation of a trough, pipeline, spring development, and roof runoff system..
- Coordinated required Professional Engineering Board meetings and manager coordination meetings.
- Administered the Professional Engineering grant for the Southeast Area engineer.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *Technical assistance provided to 3 landowners for the installation of wildlife habitat resulting in 9,100 stems being planted or 18 acres being treated.*
- *1,050 plants were sold to 28 agricultural and non-agricultural customers in the District's Annual Plant Sale.*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *Supervisor participation in the Local Work Group for the Palouse Team.*
- *Participation in the Upper Columbia Resource, Conservation and Development Council.*
- *Participation in meetings to collaborate county activities: Technical Service Provider program; Whitman County Conservation District Council; Department of Ecology Burn Permitting Authority; and Palouse Subbasin Planning.*
- *Received oilseed demonstration project grant to be supported by County Commissioners, Canola Commission, and private entities.*

Information, Education and Outreach

- *In partnership with the Pine Creek CD, published four quarterly issues of the District's newsletter, The Steward, totaling 8 articles related to water quality with a circulation mailing of 850.*
- *Provided conservation education to 3 fifth grade classes consisting of 70 participants resulting in 1 ½ -acres of wildlife habitat being planted.*
- *Provided water quality education to a sixth grade class consisting of 11 participants.*
- *Demonstration Project: Chemfallow vs. Conventional Summerfallow (>14" precipitation zone) with moisture, organic matter and yield comparisons. 6 soil samplings were completed with newsletter articles and 1 yield cut with results being published.*
- *The District's weather station has been added to the Demonstration Project, Chemfallow vs. Conventional Summerfallow, tracking weather conditions to relate to moisture levels. Includes monthly visits and newsletter articles of findings.*
- *Hosted 2 tours to the University of Idaho's Bio-Agricultural Engineering for promotion of alternative crops in the direct seed / no-till / minimum till crop rotations, focusing on oilseeds, biofuels and by- products.*
- *Co-hosted a County fair booth with approximately 500 persons attending or passing through the booth experiencing 'Home Grown on the Palouse' (variety of crops including alternative crops).*
- *Assisted Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District with the 2005 Whitman County Envirothon Contest which consisted of 70 high school students competing in 6 different natural resources fields: wildlife, environmental issues, soil, aquatics, forestry, and team presentations.*
- *Managed and promoted the District's Cost-Share Program.*
- *Managed and administered Ecology's Burn Permitting Authority Program.*



Conservation education.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.